

OSD, NRO, JCS Declassification/Release Instructions on File

MEMORANDUM FOR The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff The Director, National Reconnaissance Office (S)

SUBJECT: Operational Aspects of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)(S)

Reference: C/JCS memo to Sec Def, subject as above, dated 2 May 63 (file CM 542-63).

I have reviewed the above referenced memorandum and have reached the following conclusions.

a. I agree in principle with the organisational arrangement recommended by the Director, National Reconnaissance Office, and concurred in by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

b. Final agreement on this organisational arrangement is contingent upon JCS/Director, NRO concurrence in the explicit additional duties to be performed by the JRC in this connection. Accordingly, I am transmitting as Attachment I the Terms of Reference under which I desire these additional JRC duties to be performed. I am also transmitting as Attachment II, for any further JCS comments, a delineation of proposed additional functions and responsibilities of the JRC, compatible with the Terms of Reference, which would also form the basis for modification of the JRC charter.

c. I agree with the specific recommendation of the Director, NRO that NRO responsibility for aircraft overflights will cease upon decision by the Secretary of Defense or higher authority that the area in question has become an active theater of military operations.

d. I do not concur in the JCS proposal that R&D responsibilities for satellite reconnaissance systems to be used in conflict

situations be assigned to the military Services. It is my present view that responsibility for reconnaissance satellite R&D and operation should remain as assigned in the National Reconnaissance Office, subject to my approval, and that adequate mechanisms exist to promulgate the development of such systems for potential employment through National Reconnaissance Office channels.

and approved

e. I request that the JCS by June 15, 1969, inform me and the Director, NRO of any established, R&D requirements for realistic employment of satellites for reconnaissance in central and limited wars which, in the opinion of the JCS, are yet to be fulfilled or would require different implementation.

2 Attachments

- I - Terms of Reference**
NRO/JCS Aircraft
Operations Center
- II - Proposed Additional**
Duties of JRC